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## THE MEETING OF THE WESTERN SECTION

Kansas City, Mo., June 20-21, 1922.

The Association of Biblical Instructors in American Colleges, Middle West Section, met at Kansas City, June 20, 21.

President John Clark Williams of Kansas City University opened the session, and welcomed the visiting teachers to the city. The Vice-president, Professor H. K. Ebright of Baker University, then took the chair.

President Samuel E. Price of Ottawa University was the first speaker. His theme was "The Service the Teacher of Bible can Render to the College." Many of our critical problems have been discussed sufficiently and we can now ask the important question, What is the service we can now render. The church college has a distinct mission and the teacher of Bible a unique opportunity. We can serve the college and the students, first, by showing the historical setting of Christianity that the students may appreciate the part the Bible and Christianity have played in our civilization. Secondly the teacher can show the place of the Christian religion in the entire scheme of education. Third, he can instill ideas of spiritual values.

The second speaker was President D. W. Kurtz, of McPherson College. His theme was, "The Service the Teacher of Bible can render to the Church." In a very enthusiastic address, filled with facts and figures, the speaker pointed out the service the teacher could render directly to the students who will determine the church of the coming years; secondly, through the district conferences, where the teacher can meet the ministers of the area and the churchmen; thirdly, by writing for the church papers and magazines.

The third speaker was a student, Harry Coker, class of 1922, Baker University, who spoke on the subject "The Value of College Courses in Bible to the student." It was interesting for a group of teachers to get an expression of opinion from a college student. Mr. Coker argues, that Bible courses should be elective,

and the values will be, first that they enrich his devotional life with spiritual enthusiasm and meaning. Secondly, they should be coordinated with his other courses, so that there is no conflict nor gap in his studies. Thirdly, they should give him a new conception of religion which will find its fullest expression in service. Fourthly, they shall assist him in choosing his life work and fit him for his place in the Christian home and community.

The first session gave a very good opportunity for general discussion.

At the evening meeting, Dr. G. Franklin Ream of Kansas City, formerly a teacher of Bible and an officer of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church, spoke on "The Spirit and Service of the Bible Teacher." His points were, the Bible teacher should have a passion for truth, a passion for ethics, a genuine hope for society, and a love for the individual.

The second day, the session opened with a paper by Professor F. S. Goodrich of Albion College on the subject, "The Bible as Literature." Professor E. F. Engel of Kansas University followed with a paper on "Credits for Bible Study and Standards in Teaching Bible." After these two very rich papers, a round table discussion was held, with Professor B. F. Oxtoby of Huron College in the chair. The discussions covered the points of credit for Bible study in the state universities, the credit for Bible in the state teachers certificates, the question of elective or required Bible study in church colleges, the definite text books which had been found most satisfactory.

The following officers were elected: President, Homer K. Ebright of Baker University; Vice-President, Professor A. D. Veatch of Drake University; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor J. P. Deane of Beloit College; additional member of the executive committee, Professor Fred Merifield of the University of Chicago, and Dean G. D. Edwards of Columbia, Missouri.

The conference voted to meet next June at the University of Chicago. This year the session was held at Kansas City that the men might be able to attend also the important meeting of the International Sunday School Association.